

**JOHN BERRISFORD.**

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MARCH 30, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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**Mr. WOOMER**, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

**REPORT:**

[To accompany H. R. 7066.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7066) entitled "A bill for the relief of John Berrisford," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass without amendment.

This is a bill enacting that the Secretary of War be authorized and directed to remove the charge of desertion against John Berrisford, late of Company B, Third Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

The committee finds that said John Berrisford enlisted and was mustered into service November 7, 1861, as a private in Company B, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Capt. C. W. Griggs.

He served faithfully, according to the report furnished from the records of the War Department, until January 25, 1863, when he is reported as having deserted. The records also show that he again enlisted under the name of John H. Ford in the Twentieth Independent Battery New York Light Artillery, with which battery he served faithfully until discharged after the close of the war.

The committee finds that said John Berrisford, while accompanying his regiment in the fall of 1862, being at the Illinois Central depot in the city of Chicago, on or about January 25, 1863, did obtain permission from Colonel Griggs, of the Third Regiment, and Captain Hoyt, of Company B, to go out and look for a brother of said Berrisford who was then working in Chicago.

That said Berrisford did go and look up his brother, who accompanied him back to the depot within two hours after the time he obtained consent from the officers. But on their arrival at the depot the Berrisford brothers found that the train conveying the command had departed about fifteen minutes previously. Being a stranger in the city, a mere boy, said Berrisford went to work at his trade for a time, and as soon as his circumstances would permit he reenlisted in the service as above mentioned.

Col. C. W. Griggs, of the Third Minnesota Regiment, corroborates Mr. Berrisford in his statement submitted to the committee, as shown by the following affidavit:

STATE OF WASHINGTON, *County of Pierce*, ss :

Col. C. W. Griggs, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that during the fall of the year 1862 the Third Minnesota Regiment of Infantry, under my command, was returning south, and while temporarily stopping at the Illinois Central Depot, at Chicago, Ill., on or about January 25, 1863, awaiting transportation, John Berrisford,

a corporal in Company B of said regiment, obtained permission from me, as commanding officer of said regiment, and also from Captain Hoyt, as commanding officer of Company B of said regiment, to absent himself from his command in the city of Chicago for the purpose of looking up his brother, and about two hours after said Berrisford had obtained said permission and went in search of his brother, we were given orders to embark on the train and we pulled out of Chicago before said Berrisford returned, and that is the last we heard of him until after the war, when he informed me he had served in the Twentieth New York Battery under the name of John H. Ford. I believe he is sincere in whatever he reports relating to the reasons and circumstances for not reuniting with our regiment.

C. W. GRIGGS,

*Late Colonel of Third Regiment Minnesota Infantry Volunteers.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of February, A. D. 1896.

[SEAL.]

WM. J. SHANK,

*Notary Public in and for the State of Washington,  
residing at Tacoma, Pierce County.*

It is therefore clearly evident that Berrisford had no thought or intention of deserting. He has a good military record, and the committee recommend that the bill do pass.